

~~'Not One Cent for Tribute'~~

Pers 2 J. B. DONOVAN

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Hill Hits Ransom \$\$

CPYRGHT

Sharp opposition developed in Congress today to any plan for the U. S. Government to pay part of the ransom demanded by Fidel Castro for Cuban invasion prisoners.

Sources said they understood that the U. S. was prepared to put up "lots of money" to help free the more than 1000 Cubans captured in the abortive invasion last year.

These sources gave no estimate on exactly how much Federal money might be used. Castro is demanding about \$62 million for release of the prisoners.

(In Havana, meanwhile, it was reported that negotiations for the release of the prisoners bogged down last night in discussion of undisclosed "details," and it appeared the talks might continue for some time to come.

New York Atty. James B. Donovan spent four hours in conference with Premier Fidel Castro without announced result.

"The negotiations did not end today as expected," Mrs. Berta Barreto, a go-between in the negotiations, said after the meeting. "They will last two or three more meetings, because a few details must be revised." She did not say when the two men would meet again, and it appeared probable that no date had been set.)

Sen. John J. Williams (R., Del.), urged President Kennedy yesterday to deny reports that Federal funds would be involved. The State Department and White House declined comment.

Rep. A. S. Herlong (D., Fla.), wired the President that a taxpayers' ransom would be "repugnant to our traditions."

Rep. John J. Rhodes (R., Ariz.), in a telegram to the White House quoted Charles C. Pinckney, U. S. Minister in France, who said in 1797:

"Millions for defense but not one cent for tribute."

Rep. William Cramer (R., Fla.), declared: "It is time to let the people of the country know what this deal is. This whole deal smells, which is obvious because of its secret nature."

The congressional sources said they were informed U. S. funds would be made available by the Central Intelligence Agency, whose budget is secret.

Administration officials said the answer would depend on what terms were negotiated with Castro by New York Attorney James B. Donovan, representing families of the 1113 Bay of Pigs prisoners.

The first step, officials said, would be to see how close Cuban exile fund-raisers could come to meeting Castro's final figure.

Next, they said, would be the possibility that special Federal tax deductions or private donations for ransom expenses might allow exiles to raise more money.

It appeared clear, though no one was saying so publicly, President Kennedy was willing to have his Administration take up the slack at least up to a point.

U. S. officials hoped a ransom could be negotiated mainly in medical supplies included medicines and certain food rather than cash. The United States has never included medicines and certain foods in its embargo on U. S. commercial exports to Cuba. (UPI)